

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 30, 2005. Claims 21 to 40 are pending in the application, of which Claims 21, 26, 31 and 36 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 21 to 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,426,801 (Reed) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,529 (Sanbongi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns an image recording apparatus. The image recording apparatus may record multiple images, such as photographs. Each image may be provided with attribute data. The attribute data may include a plurality of attributes, such as a title of the image, an image recording date or a destination user. In addition, each attribute includes attribute information. For example, a recording date attribute includes attribute information regarding an actual date. In this example, if a user designates an attribute of an image recording date, then a plurality of recording papers on which a number of images with the same recording date are output to the same bin on the image recording apparatus.

In one feature of the invention, an image recording apparatus makes a determination, based on the attribute information stored in the detachable memory included in the attribute designated by the designation unit, such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information are recorded are output to the same bin. In another feature of the invention, a determination unit makes a determination, based on the attribute information read by the read unit included in the attribute designated by the designation unit, such that a plurality of recording papers on

which a number of image data with the same attribute information are recorded are output to the same bin.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 21 is directed to an image recording apparatus which includes a recording unit adapted to record an image on a recording paper based on image data; a plurality of bins to which the recording papers are ejected; an attachment unit, adapted to attach a detachable memory to the image recording apparatus, the memory storing a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute data corresponding to the plurality of image data, each attribute data having a plurality of attributes, each attribute including attribute information; a designation unit, adapted to designate one attribute from among the plurality of attributes; and a determination unit, adapted to make a determination, based on the attribute information stored in the detachable memory included in the attribute designated by the designation unit, such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information are recorded are output to the same bin.

Amended independent Claim 26 is directed to an image recording apparatus for connection with a recording unit that records an image on a recording paper based on image data and a plurality of bins to which the recording papers are ejected, said image recording apparatus. The apparatus comprises a read unit, adapted to read attribute data from a memory storing a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute data corresponding to the plurality of image data, wherein each attribute data has a plurality of attributes and each attribute includes attribute information; a designation unit, adapted to designate one attribute from among the plurality of attributes; and a determination unit, adapted to make a determination, based on the attribute information read by said read unit included in the attribute designated by said designation unit, such that a plurality of

recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information are output to the same bin.

In contrast, Reed discloses storing image data together with its horizontal and vertical length in a memory. In addition, Sanbongi merely discloses ordering images based on time sequence in which the images were taken and then printing them.

However, neither Reed nor Sanbongi, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest at least the feature of a plurality of bins to which recording papers are ejected, nor the feature that the determination unit makes a determination, based on the attribute information stored in the detachable memory included in the attribute designated by the designation unit, such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information are recorded are output to the same bin as featured in Claim 21.

Furthermore, neither Reed nor Sanbongi, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest at least the feature that a determination unit makes a determination, based on the attribute information read by the read unit included in the attribute designated by the designation unit, such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information are recorded are output to the same bin as featured in Claim 26.

In light of the deficiencies of Reed and Sanbongi as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 21 and 26 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 31 and 36 are directed to a method and a program stored on a computer-readable medium, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 26. Applicants submit that the discussion above in support of Claim 26 applies equally to

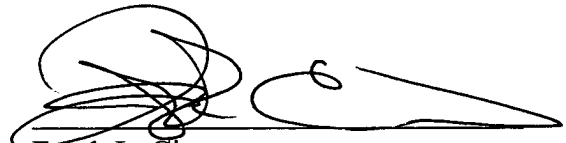
Claims 31 and 36. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 31 and 36 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank L. Cire  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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